

Barrow Epilepsy Monitoring Unit



Barrow Neurological Institute Epilepsy Center | 240 W. Thomas Rd., Suite 400, Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the opening of the new Barrow Neurological Institute Adult Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. The Barrow Epilepsy Center is accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) as a Level 4 Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. Our new state-of-the-art inpatient Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) features 16 hard-wired beds, newly upgraded to utilize the latest video-EEG (vEEG) monitoring equipment and software with 24/7 in-house vEEG monitoring capability. Patients are admitted to private rooms, which can also accommodate a family member who wishes to stay overnight. We offer a multitude of services, including epilepsy presurgical evaluations, characterization of events, and anti-seizure medication adjustments. We work in collaboration with external referring physicians in patient management. After we discharge a patient, we forward a detailed EMU report to referring outpatient physicians describing EEG findings, diagnoses, and other pertinent study results, as well as treatment recommendations. We coordinate a post-EMU follow-up visit at Barrow Neurological Institute to enhance inpatient-to-outpatient transition of care, and we can co-manage patients with external referring providers or assume primary management responsibility, if desired.



As the epilepsy presurgical process can be very involved, we aim to facilitate and expedite patients' evaluations as much as possible. To help accomplish this, we ask external referring physicians to identify which patients are being referred, specifically, for consideration of epilepsy surgery when completing the attached "Barrow Neurological Institute EMU Preadmission Form." We encourage, but do not require, referring physicians to request an outpatient visit for their patients at our Barrow Epilepsy Center prior to their EMU admission. This will allow us to obtain a focused history and plan accordingly for each patient's EMU presurgical admission. Neuroimaging studies that we feel might be helpful prior to EMU admission can also be arranged in this setting. We will do our best to expedite new outpatient visits for those patients referred to our Center for presurgical assessment as much as possible, so that admission to the EMU is not delayed.

We are also pleased to announce that we are now able to perform prior authorization for patients externally referred to our EMU. If you would like to take advantage of this service, please select this field on the attached "Barrow Neurological Institute EMU Preadmission Form." We do request that all patients being referred for EMU admission have the attached form completed by their referring physician and that any pertinent medical records are faxed with the completed form to our EMU coordinator. Questions asked on the form will help us plan for your patients' clinical care during their stay in our EMU. Our coordinator will also forward patients an "EMU Admission Welcome Packet" that explains what to expect during an EMU admission.

We look forward to continuing and growing our professional working relationships with our medical colleagues in the Phoenix community and beyond.

Thank you for your time,

Deana M. Gazzola, MD
Director, Barrow Epilepsy Monitoring Unit
Professor of Neurology
Barrow Neurological Institute

Referrals

Please do not hesitate to contact our **EMU coordinator, Brooke Ameis**, with any questions you might have about the **Barrow Neurological Institute EMU admission process** at **(602) 406-6282**.

Additionally, you can reach out to **Quashawn Warren** for any questions or referrals to our **clinical comprehensive epilepsy center** at **(602) 406-1232**.



Epilepsy Monitoring Unit External Referral Form

PATIENT NAME: _____ PATIENT DOB: _____

REFERRING PHYSICIAN: _____

BEST CONTACT NUMBER FOR REFERRING PHYSICIAN: _____

DATE OF FORM COMPLETION: _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

I request the Barrow Neurological Institute Epilepsy Center obtain Prior Authorization for my patient's admission to the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit.

Please schedule a New Patient Expedited Appointment prior to EMU Admission for my patient.

My patient is being admitted for the following reason:

Pre-surgical evaluation

Characterization

Med adjustment

Other (explain): _____

In addition, I am requesting: _____

Special admission requests (check all that apply):

My patient will need a language interpreter for the following language: _____

My patient is hearing impaired and will need sign language interpretation.

My patient has a service animal and requests they visit during the admission.

My patient will need sedation via general anesthesia for electrode placement and/or neuro-imaging.

My patient has no special needs for their planned admission

Other clinical conditions to be aware of:

My patient has a history of agitation or violence following a seizure (circle which one).

My patient has experienced psychosis following a seizure.

My patient has active suicidal and/or homicidal thoughts.

My patient has acted on suicidal or homicidal thoughts in the past.

My patient currently uses illicit substances or is alcohol-dependent.

My patient is cognitively impaired and may not be able to tolerate electrode application and/or maintenance.

Fax this referral form to (602) 798-0867. To expedite your referral, please include a copy of the front and back of the patient's insurance card whenever possible. If you have questions, or would like to follow up on the status of your referral, contact coordinator Brooke Ameis at (602) 406-6282.

Meet the Team



Vladimir Shvarts, MD, FACNS
Director
Neurologist, Epilepsy



Kevin Choi, MD
Neurologist, Epilepsy



Daniel Fayard, MD
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Ritika Suri, MD
Neurologist, Epilepsy



Brooke Ameis
Surgical Program
Coordinator



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